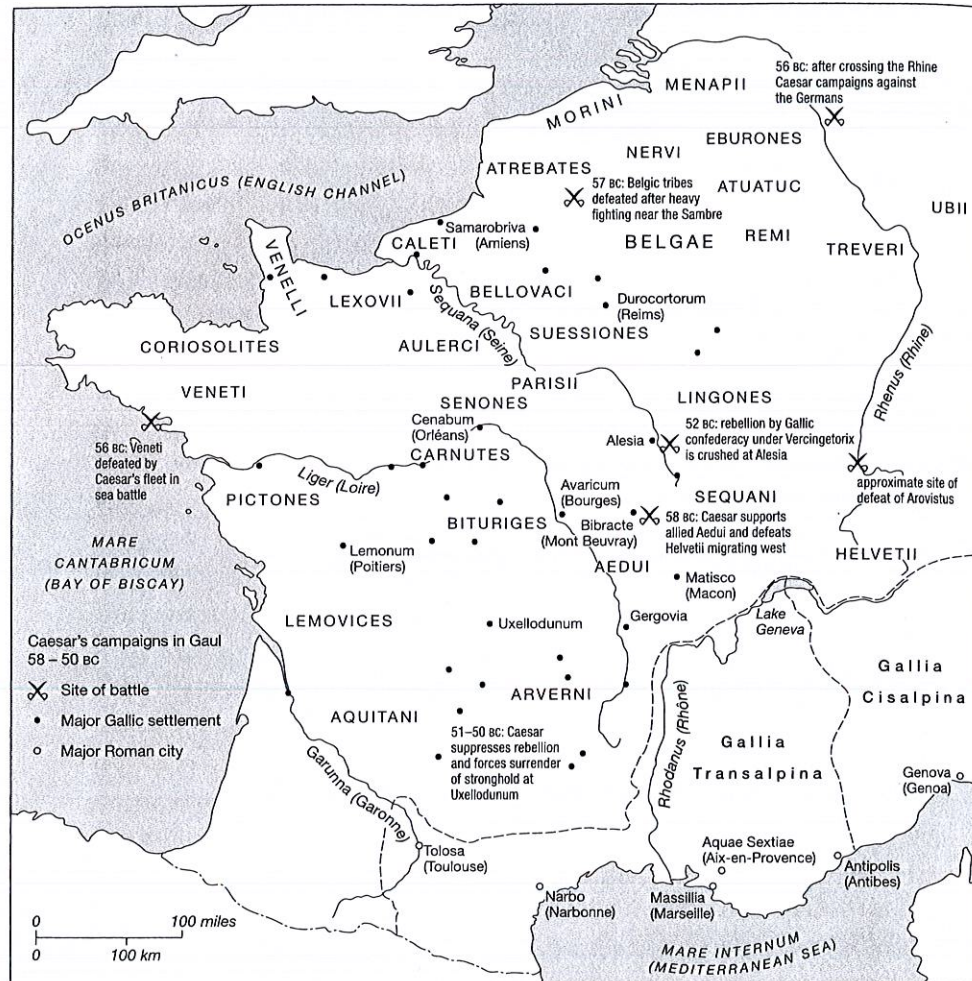


PROCONSUL 58-50 BC



Gaul and its tribes

being placed in the hands of elected magistrates. Rome's oldest ally, the Aedui, had a supreme magistrate called the Vergobret who held office for a single year. No man could be elected twice to this post, nor could any member of his family hold the office during his lifetime, thus preventing any individual or group from monopolising power. The similarity of this ideal to the Roman Republican system is striking, and in many ways the tribes of Gaul resembled the city-states of the Mediterranean world, though perhaps at an earlier stage of development.¹⁹

There is an on-going academic debate over the extent to which we can see the Gauls and other peoples who spoke 'Celtic' languages as part of one